SOUTH VIET NAM
In struggle

7th Year — March 19, 1973
No 190

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

editorial

Triumph of our fundamental national rights

THE International Conference on Viet Nam held in Paris from February 27 to March 3, 1973 has accomplished positive results. As the Act signed at its conclusion has made clear, the member governments have formally taken note and declared approval and support of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, recognized and pledged to respect the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and called on all countries in the world to follow suit for the sake of a lasting peace in Viet Nam.

The member governments highly value the Cease-fire Accord as consistent with our people's wishes and fundamental national rights and the world's fond aspiration for peace, and as a major contribution to the peace, right to self-determination, national independence and improvement of international safeguarding of relations.

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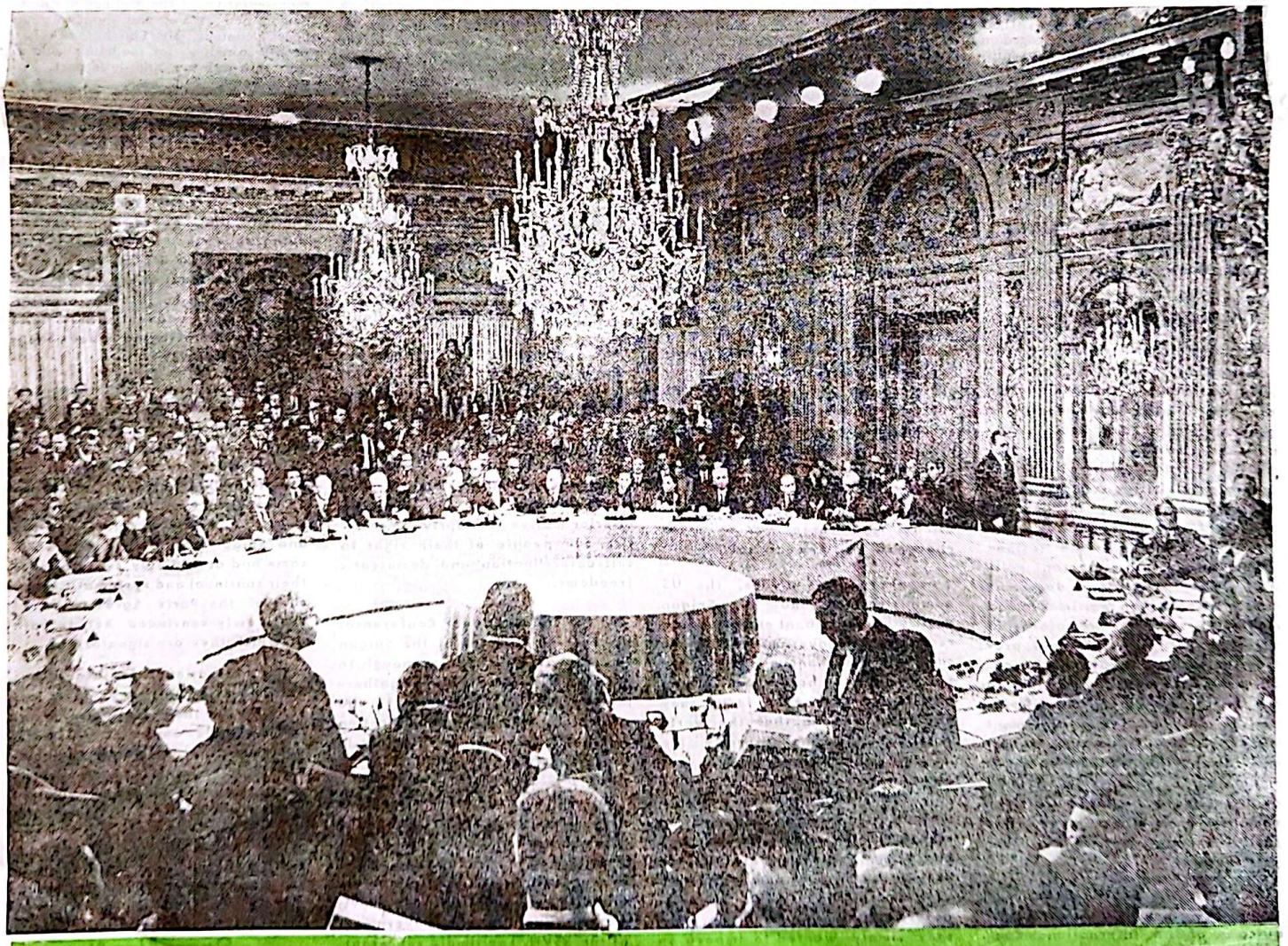

General view of the International Conference on Viet Nam

SOUTH VIET NAM WIDESPREAD DRIVE FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT ON VIET NAM

THOUGH the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam has come into force for more than a month, it has been violated time and again by the Saigon administration, with incursions into the liberated areas, pulling down of the Provisional Revolutionary Government flags and killing of innocent people in peaceful villages with mortar fire. Their police have been given a free hand to make arbitrary arrests of people who are for national concord and rejoice at the restoration of peace. But the people living in US-Thieu controlled areas have been closing their ranks to resist.

Right after the signing of the Paris Agreement, more than 16,000 followers of various religions in Tra Vinh province staged 160 face-to-face confrontations with Saigon authorities at all levels to protest against their breaches of the Agreement. Victims of Thieu's concentration-camp policy in strategic hamlets torn to pieces more than 7,000 Saigon flags, thousands of reactionary banners and countless pictures of Thieu. Nearly 50,000 people in Soc Trang, Tra Vinh, Can Tho and Tra Vinh provinces consecutively joined in more than 2,000 actions demanding the Saigon administration to enforce the democratic freedoms as stipulated by the Paris Agreement. 3,000 Saigon troops have been talked by nearly 30,000 members of their own families into deserting and returning to their villages. In My Tho province, when Saigon M.113 armoured personel carriers deployed in the paddy fields to plant Saigon flags thereby robbing the people of their land, hundreds of the villagers threw themselves down in front of them to prevent their movement and strafing of the villages, and tried in the meantime to explain the Agreement to the Saigon soldiers and urged them to return to their families. Our people also lodged a protest with the Four-Party Joint Military Commission against the violations of the Agreement by the Saigon authorities. Town dwellers at Ben Tre bravely confronted the local authorities, urging that the whereabouts of their dear and near detained by the Saigon administration be let known and that they all be set free.

Teachers and students at Giong Trom (Ben Tre province) were on strike in protest against Saigon local authorities who had ordered their henchmen to indiscriminately throw grenades at the students' home, killing 4 and wounding many. 350 students and teachers turned the funeral of the murdered students into an organized march past Saigon-held posts and surrounded their provincial administration, accusing the murderers who were forced to admit that their crime was a crude violation of the Agreement. In Bac Lieu province, scores of teachers, democratic personalities and priests' firmly declined to sign a petition prepared by Saigon local authorities against mythical violations of the Agreement by the Provisional Revolutionary Government, instead, they pointed out: "We always honour the truth. That's why we can't sign this petition which has been prepared along your line!" The Committee for the People's Right to Live instead published an open letter in which it denounced the Saigon administration's violations of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam and repression of political prisoners and students; the Committee pressed for "the immediate release of all political prisoners and all students arbitrarily arrested and detained by Saigon authorities."

Believers of different religions also enthusiastically welcomed peace. More than 200 Caodaist priests and followers in Soc Trang province observed celebrations of the great victory of the Vietnamese nation and signed a petition sternly scoring Saigon violations of the Agreement as crimes against the people and attempts to undermine national concord. In Can Tho province, hundreds of people in the Caodaist and Buddhist clergies staged a teach-in to celebrate peace. They forcefully denounced the deliberate violations of the Agreement by the Americans and the Saigon administration and their numerous offences against the faithful. At the meeting, Saigon's destruction of the Tay Ninh Holy See and continuous bombardment with war planes, artillery, tanks and armoured carriers of many pagodas and churches, and their raids on the liberated areas were condemned. Caodaist followers at Tay Ninh vigorously criticized the assaults on their Holy See and other areas in the province by Saigon troops.

In a fray, more than 20 women climbed the top of Saigon tanks to prevent the soldiers from using flame-throwers against civilians' homes. Reverend Huynh Van Tri also held a talk with his Hoa Hao followers and priests about the Paris Agreement and called on them "to wed the defence of their creed with national salvation, to do their utmost to preserve the Agreement and to force the Saigon administration to strictly honour their signature by putting an end to their repression of and terrorism against the people and undertaking to put into effect the democratic freedoms in compliance with Article 11 of the Agreement."

Briefed by the people about the Paris Agreement, many Saigon troops asked their officers to let them go back home. They disobeyed orders to go on "mopping-up" and encroaching operations and to lower PRG flags. Soldiers in some units, such as in the 2nd Battalion of the 31st Regiment, 21st Saigon Division, mutinied, killing tyranical officers who had often forced them into actions against the civilians (the Battalion Commander and his deputy were among the dead) and crossed over to the people. On two consecutive nights, soldiers at the Hoa Cam Training Camp (Quang Da province) rebelled, killing and wounding 16 commanding officers who had tried to deploy them into forays into the liberated areas. Saigon authorities have set up a new big prison camp at San Du (Gia Dinh province) where more than 1,000 mutineers are detained. These detainees have been continuously struggling for their freedom and for their right to live in peace and national concord. These words of a sub-lieutenant of the Saigon Marines in Da Nang are rather representative of the feelings of many Saigon men: "You can shout to your heart's content, Mr Thieu. Peace has been restored, so let me hand back to you this uniform and let's part. I'm going home now!"

Triumph of our fundamental...

(Continued from page 1)

The final instrument of the International Conference on Viet Nam represents a tremendous gain of the Vietnamese people in general and of the South Vietnamese in particular in their protracted battle for independence, sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity. Signed by 12 governments in the presence of the Secretary General of the United Nations Organization, this important political and juridical document acknowledges the legitimacy and righteousness of the aforesaid objectives of our fight and provides us with more favourable conditions to push up our struggle to get the US and Saigon administration to duly and fully implement the provisions of the Paris Agreement. In this international endorsement, another expression is found of the vigorous support of the socialist and other peace- and justice-loving countries for our just cause.

As far as the South Vietnamese people are concerned, the successful outcome of the International Conference assumes a particular significance. In its results and its very process as well, our right to self-determination has been strongly upheld. The latter and the guarantees of its imprescribility, already stipulated in the January 27, 1973 Paris Agreement have been reasserted. The presence and extensive influence wielded by the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam at the International Conference was evidence enough of its full exercise.

As everyone is aware, the US administration and the Saigon regime had been bent on refusing to recognize our government who has survived with honour and dignity their deluge of hardware. Turning a blind eye to obvious facts, they had been insisting that the world accept this glaring absurdity: the existence of one "only legal government" in South Viet Nam, the Saigon rule. By so doing, they not only wanted to ignore an administration whose birth and growth they had been completely powerless to prevent but also to deny the South Vietnamese their right to self-determination. In other words, they simply wanted to impose on the latter, a US-installed fascist dictatorship and US instrument for the establishment of US neo-colonialism in South Viet Nam, as the "only legal government," thereby negating our right to set up our own administration, in accordance with our own wish.

Such behaviour was not only out of touch with reality, at variance with reason and legality but also spelled out the objectionable ulterior motive to deprive in practice our people of their right to self-determination and democratic freedoms.

At the International Conference, the Foreign Minister of the Saigon regime was still brazen enough to propose a statement by the gathering as an official annex to the Act recognizing his administration as the only legal government in South Viet Nam.

Naturally such a preposterous suggestion was rejected by the assembly who, by so doing, acknowledged the fact that no power can negate the existence nor the viability and credit of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the RSVN. Legitimate representative of the South Vietnamese people's, it is recognized and held in esteem by the socialist, non-aligned and peace- and justice-loving countries in the world. The active share of its delegction to the International Conference as well as to the Paris talks on Viet Nam has been unquestionably instrumental in bringing about their fruitful conclusions.

True to its love for peace and national concord, it has been consistently abiding by, and strictly implementing, the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, as mentioned in the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam. Like the DRVN Government, it expects that the US and Saigon administrations do the same and accordingly cease at once their continual and systematic breaches of the Paris Agreement and the newly-concluded Act, to both of which they are signatories.

The International Conference has once more shown that in their just striving for their fundamental national rights and right to self-determination, the South Vietnamese can count on the deep sympathy and vigorous support of the world peace-loving people.

The Conference's achievement will strengthen our confidence in the final triumph of our just cause.

SOUTH VIET NAM

For the full respect and strict implementation of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam

Statement by Madame **NGUYEN THI BINH**, *Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chief of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to the International Conference on Viet Nam.*

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Statement by Madame **NGUYEN THI BINH**, *Minister for Foreign Affairs, Chief of the delegation of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to the International Conference on Viet Nam.*

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

ON behalf of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, I wish to extend my warmest greetings to all the delegates to the International Conference on Viet Nam. I should also like to thank sincerely the French Government for having created favourable conditions for the work of our Conference.

A month ago, in this same hall, the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam was signed. This is an event of historical significance, marking a tremendous victory of the Vietnamese people's just cause.

Together with compatriots throughout the country, the people of South Viet Nam has struggled persistently for dozens of years against the most brutal war of aggression in history to achieve its most ardent aspirations, which are also the basic objectives defined by the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, namely: to build a peaceful, independent, democratic and prosperous South Viet Nam, and advance towards peaceful reunification of the country.

The ever greater successes of our people's resistance, and the just position and serious attitude of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam at the conference table over more than four years led to the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam on January 27, 1973. The signing of the Agreement was the result of a long, complicated process of negotiations, during which the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam had on many occasions put forward reasonable and logical proposals and solutions.

The Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam reflects the basic objectives of our people's struggle for national salvation It stipulates that "the United States and all other countries respect the independence, sovereignty, unity, and territorial integrity of Viet Nam." It also states that "the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination is sacred, inalienable." The Agreement and the annexed Protocols recognize in fact the existence now in South Viet Nam of two administrations, two armies, two zones of control, and three main political forces. Therefore, the Agreement stipulates that the two South Vietnamese parties shall hold consultations in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord, equality and mutual respect, with a view to settling the internal matters of South Viet Nam, setting up a National Council of National Reconciliation and Concord with three equal segments, and proceeding to genuinely free and democratic general elections to decide the political future of South Viet Nam.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is a party signatory to the Agreement. As a people's administration born amidst the high tide of the struggle for national salvation, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam is the genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people, operating from the grass-roots to the central levels, and enjoying the devoted support and protection of the people. The Provisional Revolutionary Government regards the strict implementation of the provisions of the Agreement as the most correct way to maintain peace and consolidate independnce and freedom in South Viet Nam, and to advance towards peaceful reunification of the country. Therefore, just as in the past we did not spare any effort to achieve the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam, we will now do our utmost for the full respect and strict implementation of this Agreement.

The Delegation of the RSVN PRG at the International Conference on Viet Nam

Right after it was signed, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam issued an appeal, calling on the people and the People's Liberation Armed Forces to fully respect and strictly implement the Agreement. The High Command of the People's Liberation Armed Forces gave orders to all regular, regional and guerilla units to cease fire at the stipulated time, and to exert self-restraint in the face of provocations with a view to avoiding any conflict. Our Government promptly designated military delegations to the Joint Military Commissions, and gave all cooperation and assistance to the International Commission of Control and Supervision. We have returned a number of captured military and civilian personnel of the Saigon administration, the United States and other foreign countries allied with the United States.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has also spared no efforts in opening preparatory meetings between the two South Vietnamese parties to settle procedural matters, with a view to holding as soon as possible the official Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties mentioned in the Agreement. Our Government wishes to achieve national reconciliation and concord, and to satisfy our people's most ardent aspirations, namely: to consolidate peace, to ensure lasting stability, to end hatred and enmity, and to heal the wounds of war in our homeland, within each family, and in the heart of each member of the national community.

The efforts of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam and those of the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam have brought about positive results, which are known to all.

It is to be regretted, however, that the other parties signatory to the Paris Agreement have not done the same. Bellicose forces in South Viet Nam and abroad are trying deliberately to hinder the implementation of the Agreement and to sabotage peace. Although the Agreement became effective a month ago, gunfire and bomb explosions have not been silenced in South Viet Nam. In many places, military actions have become even more fierce than before. Tens of thousands of land-grabbing operations are being conducted against the liberated areas. The work of the Four-Party Joint Military Commission and the International Commission for Control and Supervision is being hindered, and the deployment of joint military teams is meeting with many difficulties. Hundreds of thousands of patriots are still detained, tortured, ill-treated and murdered in jail, while many others have been arrested during police operations. The holding of consultations between the two South Vietnamese parties to settle the internal matters of the South in a spirit of national reconciliation and concord delayed.

The violations of the Agreement over the past days prove that the United States and the Saigon administration have not given up their policy against peace and national concord. We are thus faced with the urgent task of guaranteeing peace in Viet Nam, guaranteeing the respect for, and strict implementation of, the provisions of the Agreement and the annexed Protocols.

For its part, the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam once more solemnly undertakes to fully respect and strictly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, and to do its utmost to consolidate and maintain peace in Viet Nam, and to ensure the South Vietnamese people's democratic liberties and their right to effective self-determination.

The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam holds that maintaining peace requires the efforts of all parties signatory to the Agreement. We call on the government of the United States of America and the government of the Republic of Viet Nam to end immediately their violations of the Agreement, and to pledge full respect for, and strict implementation of, the letter and spirit of all the Agreement and annexed Protocols, as has been done by the Government of the Democratic Republic of Viet Nam and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam.

On behalf of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, we suggest to the Conference "to acknowledge the signed agreements; to guarantee the ending of the war, the maintenance of peace in Viet Nam, the respect of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination; and to contribute to and guarantee peace in Indochina," as stipulated by Article 19 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

We earnestly call upon the Governments of all other countries to undertake to refrain from any action running counter to the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. We also earnestly call upon the progressive people of the world — including progressive people in the United States — who in the past gave the Vietnamese wholehearted support and assistance, to take practical actions to guarantee respect for, and strict implementation of, the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam.

We take this opportunity to express the sincere gratitude of the people, the National Front for Liberation and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, to the peoples and Governments of the socialist countries, the non-aligned countries, and all countries in the world who cherish freedom, peace and justice, who gave our just cause warm support and assistance, and who, together with our people, are working for the respect and strict implementation of the Paris Agreement.

We hope that the International Conference on Viet Nam will be successful.

Thank you for your attention.

The PRG's role and position rightly valued

Mr **HOANG BICH SON**, *Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs, deputy-head of the RSVN PRG delegation to the Paris International Conference on Viet Nam, just back from Paris granted an interview to a correspondent of the paper* **South Viet Nam in Struggle** *in his office on the important event. Following are the questions and answers*—Ed.

Question : Would the Vice-Minister be kind enough to tell us of the aim and significance of the International Conference on Viet Nam in Paris ?

Answer : Article 19 of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam stipulates : "The parties agree on the convening of an International Conference within thirty days of the signing of this Agreement to acknowledge the signed agreement; to guarantee the ending of the war, the maintenance of peace in Viet Nam, the respect of the Vietnamese people's fundamental national rights and the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination; and to contribute to, and guarantee, peace in Indochina."

So the aim of the Paris International Conference was to recognize solemnly the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese people, guarantee respect and strict implementation of all the provisions of the Agreement and its Protocols. The Act of the Paris International Conference with such aims and its successful outcome had a great significance at the moment when the US and the Saigon administration were seriously challenging the provisions of the Peace Agreement. It was an occasion to expose to the world their objectionable behaviour and to compel them to respect and strictly implement the Agreement on Ending the War and Restoring Peace in Viet Nam.

Question : What about the activity of the different parties at the Conference?

Answer : The Conference turned out to be a confrontation between our friends and us on one side, and the US, the Saigon administration and their allies on the other. As wanted by the other side, the International Conference on Viet Nam should be an International Conference on Indochina. Beside, it looked forward an international intervention in various forms.

With regard to the South Viet Nam problem, the motive of the various moves of the other side at the Conference were to down grade the position and role of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, uplift the Saigon administration into the "only legal and constitutional government in South Viet Nam" and deny the existence of two governments, two armies, two zones of control and three political forces in South Viet Nam as acknowledged by the Paris Agreement. With this scheme, the other side wanted to secure advantages in the current negotiations in Paris between the two South Vietnamese parties.

However, the 9-point Act of the Conference was evidence enough of the other side's failure. The Act endorsed the basic substance of the Agreement and the splendid victory of our people, called on the signatories of the Agreement, the countries participating in the International Conference on Viet Nam and other countries to abide by and fully implement the Agreement and respect the fundamental national rights of the Vietnamese people and the right to self-determination of the South Vietnamese.

The Act has clearly acknowledged the position and role of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. The Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam was one of the 12 member governments of the Conference, enjoying equal rights in all respects and being a signatory to the Agreement, with full responsibility, right and a decisive part in making the ending of the war and restoration of peace in Viet Nam a reality.

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh affixed her signature next to those of the ministers of foreign affairs of other governments. The United Nations General Secretary, during his courtesy call upon the PRG representative, invited the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam to appoint an observer and establish a Liaison Office at the United Nations, for the United Nations M. Kurt Waldheim said recognised the existence of two governments, two armies, two zones of control in South Viet Nam.

Through this International Conference, it is obvious that the position and role of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has been boosted. Not only our friends but all the fair-minded delegations of the other side at the Conference recognized this fact: no question concerning South Viet Nam can be solved without the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, without the realization of national reconciliation and concord as advocated by the South Viet Nam National Front for Liberation and the the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam. That was a great victory of our delegation and all our friends at the Assembly.

DRVN Foreign Minister Nguyen Duy Trinh and RSVN PRG Foreign Minister Mme Nguyen Thi Binh signing the Act of the International Conference on Viet Nam

Question : How does the Vice-Minister assess the results of the International Conference on Viet Nam and the purport of its Act?

Answer : The International Conference on Viet Nam has ended most successfully. All the targets of our struggle have been attained. The position and the role of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam has been further raised. The scheme to use the International Conference on Viet Nam to create a new bridgehead for neo-colonialism and to internationalise the Viet Nam issue has failed. The Act not only acknowledges but increases the juridical value of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. We are convinced that the signing of the Act will contribute to preventing the US and the Saigon administration from violating the Agreement. We welcome the signing of the Act and resolve to respect and strictly emplement all the provisions of the Agreement and the commitments in the Act to guarantee the ending of the war, preserve peace in Viet Nam and contribute to the safeguard of peace in Indochina, Southeast Asia and the rest of the world.

We demand that the US and the Saigon administration do the same. We hope that the governments of the countries which have signed the Act as well as the peoples and governments of other countries in the world will take positive measures to force the US and the Saigon administration to end at once all current serious violations of the Agreement.

THE Vietnamese people's battle for independence and freedom went on. From various parts of the world, delegations of the 12 Governments concerned with, and responsible for, the Viet Nam situation were streaming to France's capital.

Paris's aiports were desert, because of their personnel were on strike. The French Government had ordered members of its air force to see to the operation of the Bourget and Orly where planes flying flags of the Conference's member countries landed under the guidance of an army-manned control tower.

Some journalists had sensibly commented that the Conference could be held at all was a success for Viet Nam. In point of fact, many reactionary forces at home and abroad did not relish the convening of such a gathering, provided for by Article 19 of the Paris Agreement or would like to turn it to account for the benefit of US neo-colonialism.

IT opened however at 10 a.m. on February 26, at the Kleber International Conference Centre. One again, the site of a nearly five years' diplomatic contest between Viet Nam and its opponents crowned by the former's victory exactly one month earlier, was bustling and glimmering. Once more the brass-helmeted Gardes Republicaines saluted Madame Nguyen Thi Binh, Mr Nguyen Duy Trinh and other Foreign Ministers when they stepped into the Conference Hall, as they had done thirty days ago. Once more the Centre's personnel new familia to us are in a flurry, seeing to various jobs or welcoming the delegates with the renowned French courtesy.

The Hall seemed a bit narrow for the over hundred delegates of the 12 Governments seated around an orange-baize covered table. It was even smaller for the nearly 900 international pressmen who were allowed in for the inauguration. All the others had to follow the proceedings on TV sets installed in two special rooms.

French Foreign Minister Schumann extended the usual welcome to the guests. The session officially began when the hall was cleared of the reporters and correspondents. In two consecutive sittings, all the 12 delegations stated their positions regarding the assembly and the problem of peace in Viet Nam.

It was a true confrontation between two tendencies, between peace and war, between revolutionary forces and their opponents. There existed an obvious scheme to minimize the legal validity of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam. What they had not been able to negotiate then they now tried to deny, what they had not been able to achieve then they now tried to obtain. They wanted the meeting to discuss, apart from general guarantee for the Paris Agreement, other Indochinese issues or the internationalization of the Viet Nam question. They wanted to set up a standing committee of the International Conference and the internationalization of the economic aid for, and reconstruction of, Viet Nam.

Their ulterior motive sometimes took on cynical forms, sometimes was adroitly camouflaged in speeches of their side, but was apparent in all of Tran Van Lam's statements.

The Saigon man took the floor three times.

The PRG remained the thorn in his and other Saigon regime's supporters' side. All his and their preposterous proposals were aimed at denying its status as their equal now at the conference table and later on on the concluding page of any document adopted by the gathering.

Lam's voice at the Conference sounded solitary and desperate, clamouring that his regime was the "only legal and constitutional administration." There were naturally occult forces, on his side. After all they had installed, been paying and fostering his government into a tool for the imposition of neo-colonialism on South Viet Nam. They now were catching at this straw in the hope of weathering the South Viet Nam revolutionary storm.

Despite his strenuous shouting into the microphone, everything he uttered fell flat. Despite his exertions to glamourize his government in the teeth of any sense of justice and ethics, despite his endeavour to wrest the 1954 Geneva Agreements to suit his purpose, asserting that under its terms there were two international entities on the territory of Viet Nam, his arguments about the status of the demilitarized zone, introduction of armaments into South Viet Nam and formation of a permanent international body of the International Conference on Viet Nam were formulated in a kind of wilderness.

The Soviet representative was the last to speak. He laid emphasis on the role of the PRG as the genuine spokesman of the South Vietnamese people. At the French Foreign Minister's reception after the first session, Mr Kouznetsov, member of the Soviet delegation said to the Vietnamese:

"Dear Comrades, for us of the Soviet delegation, your Government represents the revolutionary South Vietnamese. We are seated near the Saigon regime delegates but we just ignore them."

At the end of the first two sessions, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh disposed of Lam's arguments by drawing attention of the assembly to the fact that

– The 1954 Geneva Conference did not mention anything like two international entities. It only recognized the sovereignty, unity, independence and territorial integrity of Viet Nam.

– The condition for replacement of weapons have been clearly stipulated in the Paris Agreement, which does not say anything about the introduction of additional arms into South Viet Nam. What prompted the raising of this issue was unmistakably obvious to the Conference.

She also informed the assembly of 23,560 US-Saigon violations of the Paris Agreement within only one month.

The Saigon antics continued during the debates of the Drafting Committee but again to no avail.

A last ditch effort was made by Lam at the initialling session. He duly affixed his initials to every page of the Act and immediately afterwards, he rang the changes, which sounded completely out of tune with the spirit and letter of the Conference's document, based on the DRVN and US drafts. Then in defiance of all international practice, the Saigon spokesman proposed the gathering to adopt his statement as an official document.

But his neighbour on the left simply warned that if his delegation received such a thing it would be immediately returned to its sender. The Hungarian delegate dismissed the matters raised as prerequisites for violations of the Act, while the DRVN and Polish representatives seconded Mr Binh's motion and flatly rejected Lam's suggestion.

At the following sitting, the Chinese delegate formally declared that his Government only recognized the PRG as the only genuine representative of the South Vietnamese people and predicted that all the Saigon regime's moves to obliterate it would be foiled.

When the Canadian Foreign Minister, chairman of the session consulted Lam, the latter answered: "Being in the same position as you, I can't have any other idea," thereby refuting his own pieces of nonsence.

But foolish games often drag out. That very evening, Madame Nguyen Thi Binh gave a reception attended by US deputy leader Porter, French deputy leader Betancourt and all the other chief delegates as well as a host of ambassadors and chargés d'affaires of various countries and South Vietnamese personalities like Tran Van Huu, Tran Dinh Lan, Ngo Cong Duc, Father Thi, Reverend Thich Nhat Hanh's representative, Vietnamese residents in France. The mood of the function was a merry and jubilant one. Only Mr Lam was absent, being busy drafting a declaration which was eventually printed by some French papers stating that he had not come to the party because he refused to recognize Madame Binh as a South Vietnamese Foreign Minister, his "government being the only legal and constitutional government in South Viet Nam."

At the US Secretary of State's party the next day, seeing Madame Nguyen Thi Binh there, an Asian diplomatist told some of our representatives:

"Mr Lam has made a wrong move. He is being "downgraded" by his own master. Mr Porter's presence at Madame Binh's reception yesterday and Madame Binh's at Mr Rogers's function today are a crushing reply to his allegations. I don't know whether he feels hurt by his boss's "trick". Anyway he is already gone, though this party has just begun."

Representation of the PRG in the DRVN.

The second row of seats of the US delegation was occupied by Senators Mansfield and Hugh Scott, respectively leaders of the majority and the minority at the Capitol. The Saigon delegation was also strengthened by some senators just arrived from home.

The hall fell into silence after the Polish Chief delegate gave a signal with his gavel. Every Foreign Minister took up a pen, ready to put his signature to 60 copies of the Conference's Act, done in five languages, bound in light brown leather. It was 3.20 hours local time. The DRVN and PRG and other delegations had to use many pens in the process.

"Mr Lam does not need many pens," said a French newspaper man to some Vietnamese colleagues, "because his is not a victorious pen like Madame Binh's. Surely every one likes to have her pen as a souvenir, and not Mr Lam's."

So, once more the dainty hand of the only female Foreign Minister signed her name next to representatives of great powers, to record another diplomatic gain of her government which was at the same time one of the nation's battle for national salvation.

A champagne party was offered by the French Foreign Minister. It is impossible to count the number of those who threaded their way through the crush to toast with Madame Binh, Hoang Bich Son and Nguyen Van Tien the new achievement of our people, which was also a triumph of peace and justice.

A member of the Kleber Centre's staff squeezed the hand of one of our comrades and said: "So your fight here which lasted 4 years and 9 months is over. Victory belongs to you. You are such splendid people! You have such an extraordinary woman Foreign Minister!"

The delegates left in an exultant mood. Madame Binh's motorcade turned the Arc de Triomphe and headed for a new street. Mr Tran Van Lam went home, with a heavy heart. His cortege of cars drove down Kleber Avenue, their back to the Arc de Triomphe.

HUYNH VAN LY

At the Paris International Conference on Viet Nam

PRG, the victor

SO the struggle for the implementation of Article 19 of the Paris Agreement has ended successfully, with the solemn signing ceremony at the Kleber International Conference Centre.

The crowd was bigger than usual in the Conference Hall. All the delegations were in full strength, accompanied by some of their experts. Madame Binh dressed in a bright coloured tunic was flanked by her deputies, Vice-Foreign Minister Hoang Bich Son and Mr Nguyen Van Tien, head of the Special

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh discusses questions of mutual concern with UN Secretary General

MINISTER Nguyen Thi Binh, Head of the RSVN PRG Delegation, and Kurt Walheim, Secetary General of the United Nations Organisation, had several exchanges of views during the International Conference on Viet Nam in Paris, according to *GPA* correspondent in the French capital.

Minister Nguyen Thi Binh told the UN Secretary General on the serious situation in South Viet Nam caused by the repeated and systematic violations of the fundamental provisions of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam by the Saigon administration.

She underlined the policy of the RSVN PRG to strictly respect and implement the Agreement, achieve reconciliation and build a peaceful, independent, democratic and neutral South Viet Nam in preparation for the peaceful reunification of the country.

The UN Secretary General showed great concern for the situation of Viet Nam.

In an atmosphere of mutual understanding, the PRG Foreign Minister and the UN Secretary General discussed questions of mutual concern, including the setting up of a representation of the RSVN PRG beside the UN.

Answering questions of newsmen on March 1st, Mr Kurt Walheim expressed his "satisfaction" with the talks he had with Minister Nguyen Thi Binh. He also confirmed that he had discussed with her the setting up of a liaison office of the RSVN PRG and the appointment of an observer of the latter beside the UN.

He pointed out that this question comes within the power of the United Nations.

Arrival in Paris of

Minister Nguyen Van Hieu, Head of the RSVN PRG Delegation to the Consultative Conference

A send-off party was held by the RSVN PRG Council on March 12, 1973 for Minister Nguyen Van Hieu, Head of the RSVN PRG Delegation to the Consultative Conference between the two South Vietnamese parties due to meet in Paris soon.

At the ceremony, President Huynh Tan Phat formally entrusted Minister Nguyen Van Hieu with his new mission and warmly wished him and his colleagues in the delegation full success. Minister Nguyen Van Hieu thanked NFL Chairman Nguyen Huu Tho, National, Democratic and Peace Alliance Forces, Chairman Trinh Dinh Thao, President Huynh Tan Phat and other personalities present at the send-off party and, in his own name and in the name of the members of his delegationpledged to do his utmost, thereby contributing to the realization of the 17 million South Vietnamese's deepest aspiration—namely a peaceful, independent, democratic South Viet Nam, better people's living conditions, achievement of national concord and eventual peaceful national reunification.

"It will be impossible to reach a settlement without the return of peace and the normalization of the people's life," affirmed Minister Nguyen Van Hieu, after his arrival in Paris, on March, 16.

He was welcomed at Le Bourget airport by Mme Nguyen Thi Binh, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the PRG; Minister Xuan Thuy, Head of the DRVN Government Delegation to the Paris Conference on Viet Nam; Dang Viet Chau, head of the DRVN Government delegation to the DRVN — US Joint Economic Commission, Pham Van Ba, Director of the Information Bureau of the PRG in France; Vo Van Sung, General-Delegate of the DRVN in France.

Present at the airport were also the Deputy Chief of Protocol of the French Foreign Ministry, the representatives of the French Communist Party Central Committee, and of many French mass organizations; diplomatic envoys of socialist and nationalist countries; Ok Sakoun, head of the Representation of the Royal Government of National Union of Cambodia in France; representatives of Overseas organizations in France; and many French and foreign newsmen.

Addressing the welcomers and media men Prof. Nguyen Van Hieu expressed the goodwill and desire of the PRG and South Vietnamese people to quickly solve the internal affairs of South Viet Nam in accordance with the spirit and letter of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, in the spirit of national reconciliation and concord, equality and mutual respect. Minister Nguyen Van Hieu pointed out:

"Nevertheless, it will be impossible to reach a settlement without the return of peace and the normalization of the people's life. In spite of the efforts of the RSVN PRG and the DRVN government to correctly implement the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, the US Government and the Government of the Republic of Viet Nam have for more than a month now repeatedly violated the provisions of the Agreement, thus causing dangerous tension and trampling the aspirations of the Vietnamese and world's peoples."

Minister Nguyen Van Hieu also expressed thanks to the French Governement for creating favourable conditions for the holding of the consultative conference between the two South Vietnamese sides. He thanked the welcomers and conveyed the warm greetings of the SVN National Front for Liberation, the RSVN Provisional Revolutionary Government and the people back home to the Overseas Vietnamese in France.

When Minister Nguyen Van Hieu left the airport, hundreds of Vietnamese residents held high RSVN flags and chorused the well-known song "Let's Liberate the South" and wished the delegation many successes in performing its tasks.

A Saigon trick foiled

Loc Ninh airport, 1.30 p.m., March 13

THE sixth C.130 from Phu Quoc Island had just landed. The door of the cargo had hardly been opened when five Saigon military policemen pushed out a young PLAF captive. A Saigon officer hurried off to fetch the International Commission of Control and Supervision Team. At the same time, other MPs led to a shed the personnel to be returned under the Paris Accord. There one of them read their names — 99 in all.

Realizing that the name of one of their mates was left out and that he was missing, all of the 99 men rushed back to the plane. As they saw that he was surrounded by the police, they broke through the cordon and wrested him back. Thereupon the Saigon officer, who had brought the JCCS Team, said:

"This is a prisoner who does not want to return to the Provisional Revolutionary Government. He wants to stay on with the Saigon administration."

Major Franck of Hungary, head of the ICCS Team, asked:

"What's your name? Where do you come from?"

"My name is Nguyen Van Chanh, native of My Phong village, Cho Gao district, My Tho province."

"Are you a captured military?"

"Yes, my detention number is 414,201."

"In front of the International Commission officers and the Quadripartite Military Team, you can speak out your wish. Under the Paris Agreement you are allowed to choose your place of residence. So do you choose to live in the liberated zone of the Provisional Revolutionary Government or remain with the Saigon side?"

"I want to return to the Provisional Revolutionary Government," the man said: "I won't stay with the Saigon side. The Saigon administration is a barbarous and cruel one!" murs all around.

The Saigon officers present on the spot began fretting and fuming. One of them, Major Tho who escorted the captured military personnel, stepped forward and truculently said to the POW: "Chanh, look me in the face and answer: Do you wish to board a plane and go to live in Saigon or remain here?"

"I have only one wish and that is to live in the liberated zone of the Provisional Revolutionary Government. It is you, Major Tho, who yesterday threatened and forced me, after our landing here, to do that ugly thing."

Tho turned pale and kept mum.

Major Trung, the Saigon officer of the Joint Military Team, made a few steps forward and interposed:

"Gentlemen of the International Team, I suggest that those words be re-considered. This young man has just been bullied and beaten by men of the other side. He was wavering out of fear and therefore has given you such a reluctant reply."

"My mates only snatched me from the MPs' hands," Chanh retorted looking straight at Trung: "They did not manhandle me at all. It's your Major Tho who beat me yesterday, it's he — not anybody else — who attempted to force me into staying on with you."

Major Trung, trembling with rage, could only stammer out:

"Well... it's up to you."

"Everything is clear," the Hungarian team head concluded. "Questions have been asked again and again by all sides. In accordance with his wish, Chanh may go back to the zone of the Provisional Revolutionary Government."

Very happily the returnee walked to the side flying a PRG flag and twice shouted: "Down with the Saigon administration which tries to entice and coerce prisoners into staying with it."

The above confrontation was thoroughly tape-recorded.

A flagrant breach of the cease-fire

Saigon pirate ship HQ.703 destroyed at Cua Viet

AFTER the cease-fire came into effect, the Cua Viet people could see every day three or four ships of the Saigon Navy prowling at three or four miles from the coast. They at times shelled at random populated villages of Trieu Phong district, either from afar or even after infringing on the PRG territorial waters. Losses in life and property were thus inflicted to the people. In order not to create a tense situation, the Command of Cua Viet PLAF twice sent messages to the other side, warning them against violations of the cease-fire and urging them to strictly implement the Paris Agreement and its Protocols.

On March 4, 1973 at noon, three Saigon warships again came to Cua Viet from Thanh Hoi, and most provocatively cruised in front of the port. Then at 15.00 hours, one of those ships intruded into our territorial waters. Once again, order was given by the Command to Liberation fighters to refrain at first from opening fire and to invite, through a megaphone, the intruding ship to go. But the warning was slighted by the adverse side, their ship went on penetrating even deeper into the sea under our control, then started firing furiously on Vinh Hoa hamlet. It was 15.27 hours. Our fighters were permitted to return fire. The first PLAF shell hit the ship's starboard, others followed and struck home. Hit by nine shells, the ship veered. The local commander ordered his men to sink her on the spot. The thief crying "stop thief" was thus caught red-handed. More shells landed on the ship which by now was reduced to immobility and took fire. Many Saigon soldiers jumped into the sea for their life.

The two remaining ships dared not come to the rescue of their unfortunate companion. They only sent her some motor launches which immediately received due punishment. It was a windy afternoon and the sea was billowy. Greatly embarrassed by the sight of their sinking ship, the commanders of the Saigon side ordered their men on the two other ones to open fire on her in an effort to remove all traces of their offence and shirk their responsibility.

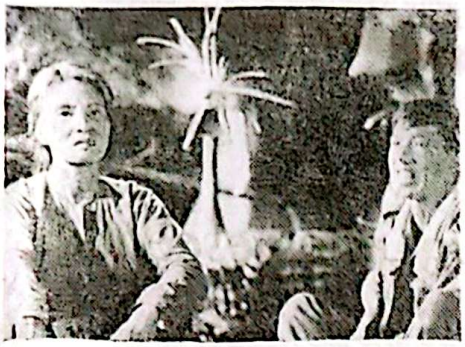
The Saigon ship was blazing from the afternoon of March 4 till 7 a.m. March 5. By then, she was seen lying on the sand beach at a low ebb, with her registered number fully visible: HQ.703, providing a clear proof of the Saigon administration's violation of the Paris Agreement. As we came and visited the place, our troops and guerillas were busy dismantling three automatic machineguns and a DK 90. They had captured a table of flag signals of the Saigon Navy, some motor launches, search lights, armour, aerials, a lot of shells and mines. They had also removed from the ship three dead bodies which they eventually buried.

After the ship HQ. 703 was sunk, for several continuous days, the Saigon administration kept on pounding wantonly Cua Viet and its surrounding area, destroying many more houses, killing and wounding many more civilians. The commander credited with the sinking of HQ. 703 simply said, "We are reasonable people, we are trying our best not to return fire, but the other side should not misunderstand our good will."

At Cua Viet, the people and armed forces were ready to co-operate in any enquiry into this serious violation of the Paris Agreement by the Saigon administration.

Q.D.

the DRVN in brief



A still from the film
The way to the native place

• Since the cessation of the US bombing, technicians and workers of the transport branch and armymen and civilians of North Viet Nam have been working hard deactivating delayed-action bombs, filling up bomb craters, levelling road-beds, enlarging road surface, building new bridges and pontoons, setting up new road-signs and reconstructing the signal system. Now, all the roads and railways linking Hanoi to Vinh, Hai Phong, Thai Nguyen, Lang Son, Lao Cai and the 4th Zone have been re-opened to traffic, making the journey 2 or 3 times faster.

• Peasants, in Thai Binh, Hai Hung, Nghe An, Ha Bac and Thanh Hoa are farming with great zeal, in honour of the great victory of the nation. Thousands of electric and oil pumps are operating day and night, thousands of canals are being dredged and enlarged, and a great number of others, whose construction required the removal of tens of thousands of cubic metres of earth, have been built, within a very short time. The planting of the Spring-Summer or Spring rice has been completed in many areas.

• Workers of the Nam Dinh textile complex, the *March 8* textile plant, the Nam Ha textile factory, the quilt plant in Hanoi and the silk-fabric plant in Nam Dinh, have put up this slogan to commemorate the occasion: *Zeal, creativeness and high productivity.* They have been working against time, clearing away rubble, rebuilding damaged workshops and opening new ones, installing new machines and fetching thousands of tons of other back from evacuation places. Production of first-grade silk in Nam Dinh last month was 8,000m, and cotton cloth output went up by 27,000m. At the textile complex, monthly cloth output has risen by tens of thousands of metres.

• Six railways stations in the Hanoi area-Dong Anh, Co Loa, Yen Vien, Hanoi, Giap Bat and Van Dien—all heavily bombed—have been reconstructed within one month. The job was completed ahead of schedule, and operations at the stations have been resumed.

• Schools in Hanoi have opened again thanks to tireless efforts of teachers, pupils and local authorities to tidy up class-rooms and play-grounds. On Feb. 12, tens of thousands of pre-school children and 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th graders jubilantly returned to school.

• After overcoming great difficulties, workers at the Van Dien Electric Batteries Factory in Hanoi have put back to operation two workshops—the one producing batteries for electric torches and the other for radio sets.

In January, the factory, which was thrice reduced almost to rubble by US bombings, made 2 million cells of various kinds for both civilian and defence uses.

• The Haiphongese have been making good the aftermath of the war. Houses are being built for war victims, with contributions in materials largely made by peasants in the suburbs. In the 28th day of the old Lunar year alone, as many as 600 houses were built in the most heavily stricken places.

Damaged houses are being repaired at the charge of the city council. In just the two weeks following the signing of the Paris Agreement on Viet Nam, over 50,000 square metres of housing were repaired.

Besides, pre-fab house-frames have been made for an area of 40,000 square metres, and 7 apartment buildings have been completed for workers and office employees, on an area of nearly 5,000 square metres.

Nam Ha handicraft weaving helps increase textile production

What candour!

ON March 6, 1973, in Washington the Pentagon spokesman announced: "Today, the US starts the removal of its mines from the port of Haiphong."

The same day the US Secretary of State also testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee that "the RSVN main port, sealed off for 10 months by US mining has been reopened to traffic."

On March 7, also in Washington, the Defence Department made known that helicopters of the US Navy and Marine Corps have completed the removal of mines at Cua Cam, on a 10 miles long portion of the canal which gives access to the port. But the same authority denied what Mr Rogers had said the day before, by stating that Haiphong had not been reopened to traffic and that about ten merchant ships were still stranded there. Questioned about the destruction of the mines, the Pentagon man answered he could not confirm that the helicopters had exploded any mines *(UPI)*.

What can one make out of all this rigmarole? The US has been boasting that it is in possession of a whole up-to-date mine-removing fleet, including choppers which can rid and destroy mines very quickly. It has moreover put into operation all sorts of gadgets, equally modern, planted 4 or 5 radar aerials all along our country's coastline for the undertaking. How come that with all those sophisticated devices and efficient organization, the Pentagon had not received any detailed reports to allow it to confirm whether any mines had been taken away or destroyed?

The true picture of the operation has been supplied by the DRVN army. In two days, March 6 and 7, operating at the mouth of the Nam Trieu in the Do Son area, the US ships were only able to destroy only one mine and remove none. At this rate, one wonders how many years it will take to dispose of all the mines planted by the US in the DRVN rivers and seas. Probably the Pentagon did not want to betray the ulterior motive behind its dallying, which is to bring pressure to bear on the DRVN.

On March 6, Mr Rogers ackowledged before the House Foreign Affairs Committee that North Viet Nam and the Viet Cong had been implementing the provisions of the Paris Agreement very satisfactorily. One wishes he would be honest enough to own that as far as the US is concerned, the same thing could not be said, and there was the mine-removing business to back such an admission.

Here and There

Faith in God

These are the main guidelines of US psywar tactics:

First, suppress the truth.

Second, in case it is impossible to do so, admit it but not without distorting its deep causes.

An illustration can be found in the release of captured US military by the DRVN:

Some years ago, the White House and the Pentagon painted this frightening picture: ill-treatment in the Hanoi prisons, malnutrition, round-the-clock chaining, and the apex of savagery, "brain washing".

Now that one half of the US POW's have been returned, the US psywar machinery, which had expected vivid evidence of their former propaganda, has been quite disappointed: the American people have been able to see for themselves the physical and moral state of the ex-guests of *Hanoi Hilton*.

All right, the US POW's returning from Hanoi are in good health, concede the psywar media. But what matters is to find the reason why they are so.

That was the question asked by *Saigon Post* of February 21. Answered US correspondent Bill Stall: It's not so much Hanoi's treatment. It's their faith in God.

But, if they had their "brains washed", how could they keep their faith in God? On the other hand: how can one explain the fact that the captured adverse military and civilian personnel, who you say have a fanatical faith in their ideal, return from Saigon prisons crippled, wasted away, and in critical health condition due to the US — Thieu prison regime, as described by French correspondent Roland Paringeaux?

But that is another pair of shoes. Bill Stall should try to find a more plausible explanation.

Meanwhile, a US medic at Clark base very candidly stated that the US prisoners come back in very good shape, which proves they were fed and cared for by Hanoi as best as it could.

HUONG NAM